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ANTONIO CAIROLI INTERVIEW

MAGGIORA MAGIC

STORY GEOFF MEYER IMAGES RAY ARCHER

Red Bull KTM Factory rider Antonio Cairoli has probably had the saddest month of his life. Losing his father is for any person not comparable to anything else and when such a thing happens you are just going through the motions of life, not enjoying it, or feeling it. At the Grand Prix of France the legendry Italian looked really down, and his mistakes in both motos cost him the Grand Prix. No doubt at the time his biggest wish was to get over his sadness and move on, as we all must do in such a situation.

At the Maggiora circuit in Italy the Sicilian did just that and while his father will always be on his mind, that deep, painful sadness is replaced with the desired to carry on at all cost. His 1-1 result at Maggiora and his typical consistent lap times and solid starts showed that his rivals can no longer depend on him making mistakes.

Now with 69 GP wins to his name, and a 38 point lead in the MXGP series points Cairoli can once search for that 70 GP victory, and with his mental state now back to as normal as it will be, he can show that he is a level above his rivals. It's been that way since 2005 and despite losing titles in 2008 (due to injury) and 2006 (due to thinking he had it won before the season started) the little Italian is the man in World Motocross.

We caught up with Antonio and asked him about his Maggiora success and the plan to improve the Grand Prix circuits, with a little help from the riders.

Motocross Illustrated: Antonio, congratulation on your win. How happy are you about being back to your normal self and taking wins in both motos?

Cairoli: I am very happy, it's been difficult weeks for me. I kept working, but not totally focused and not in a good way. Also in the past few races I wasn't focused enough. At Maggiora I want to get to the front quickly and get a good start. I led both races and I am happy with everything. In Italy there is a lot of pressure and all weekend I heard I had to win. It isn't always easy, but it's nice to have them around the track to help me win.

Motocross Illustrated: The Grand Prix of Maggiora was really something special, many people said to me it was the best GP for them in years. What do you think of the current situation of the GPs?

Cairoli: I think it shows how much the

sport is growing in Italy, and I think that is because of my work and the work of Youthstream. We are both doing good work. There were a lot of people in Maggiora who had never been to a Motocross race before, didn't even know what is was. We need these fans because we need new fans. At so many Grand Prix's we have the same fans from 20 years ago, but today we had new fans.

Motocross Illustrated: A million people watched the GP on Italian television alone. That is pretty impressive numbers.

Cairoli: For sure we had the main television channels in Italy, and we deserve it and for sure we can show better and better our sport. So many people got to see this Grand Prix and that is exciting for us.

Motocross Illustrated: Did you get into the World Cup match between England and Italy?

Cairoli: I watched it, so I was awake until 2am. It was really nice, I mean the World Cup is a special event and I really enjoyed it.

Motocross Illustrated: Your starts are very good lately. Do you work on your starts a lot?

Cairoli: I work every week on my starts, because some of the tracks are one lined and it isn't like it was in the past because many tracks are one-lined and I it's really hard to pass. If you get a bad start it isn't possible to get to the front like I used to. You need to be in front to win and we are always working on that and putting a big effort in and it seems to be working. We spoke to Youthstream and from the next race we will have a meeting to improve the tracks.

Motocross Illustrated: How will that work? The meeting between Youthstream and the riders.

Cairoli: We take the top guys from every brand, speaking to the Youthstream track people, to make places to pass and also safety issues.

Motocross Illustrated: The Grand Prix of France and also the GP of England you were obviously down because of your father. In that period Desalle made up a lot of points. Did you ever have the chance to think about that and maybe even look over your shoulder in the points race?

Cairoli: I wasn't thinking about anybody else or the points standings. I was more worried about my mental strength, it wasn't good. The championship is long and we have a lot of points to race for. I want to be back to how I was before mentally and I felt good in Maggiora.

Motocross Illustrated: I understand you had a pretty hectic week before Maggiora filming the movie based on your season?

Cairoli: I had a busy week leading into the Grand Prix of Italy. Doing a lot of work with the new Movie on myself. It was a good week and we enjoyed it, but there will be many more weeks doing this, we want the movie to be really nice.

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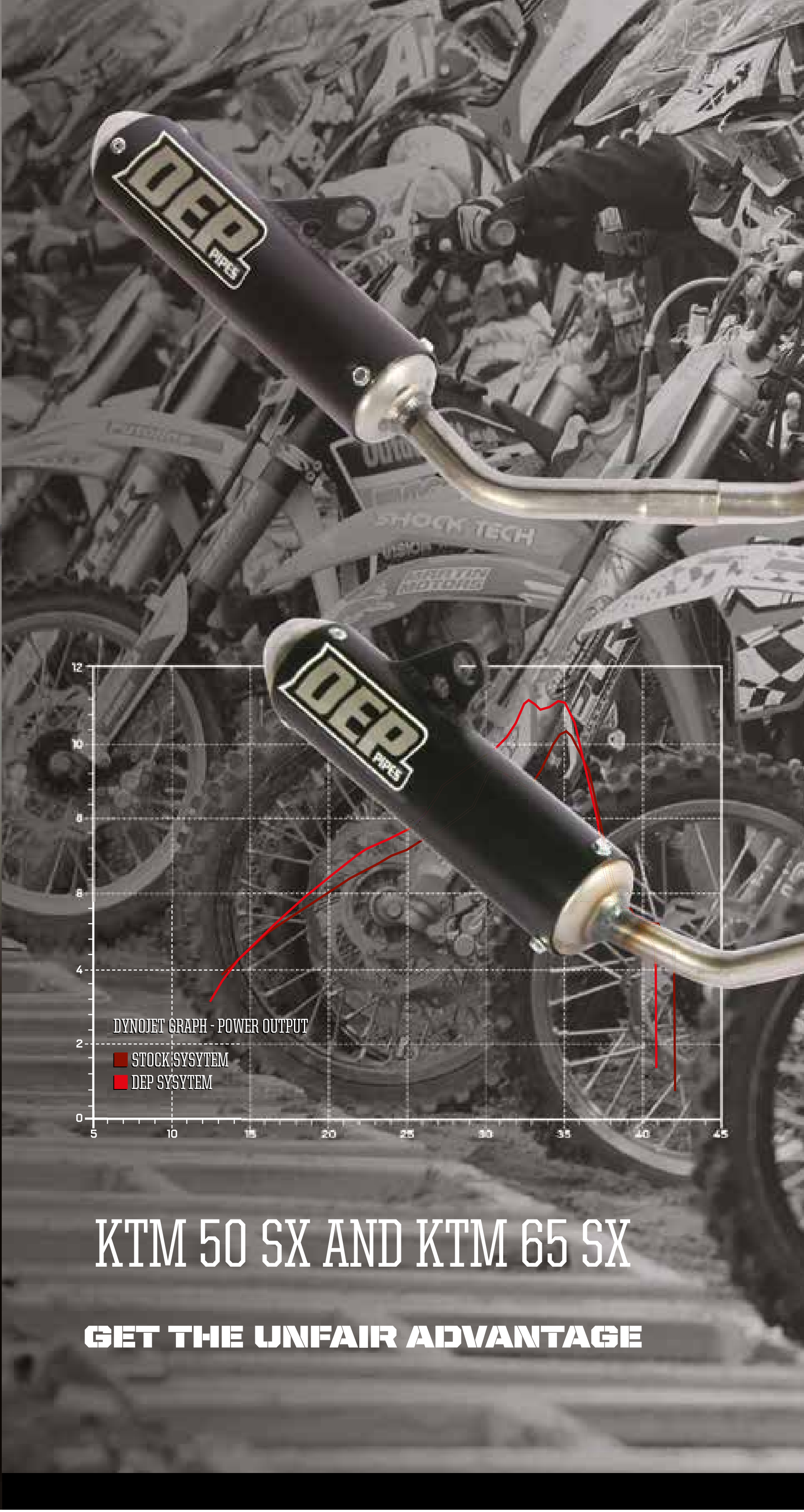

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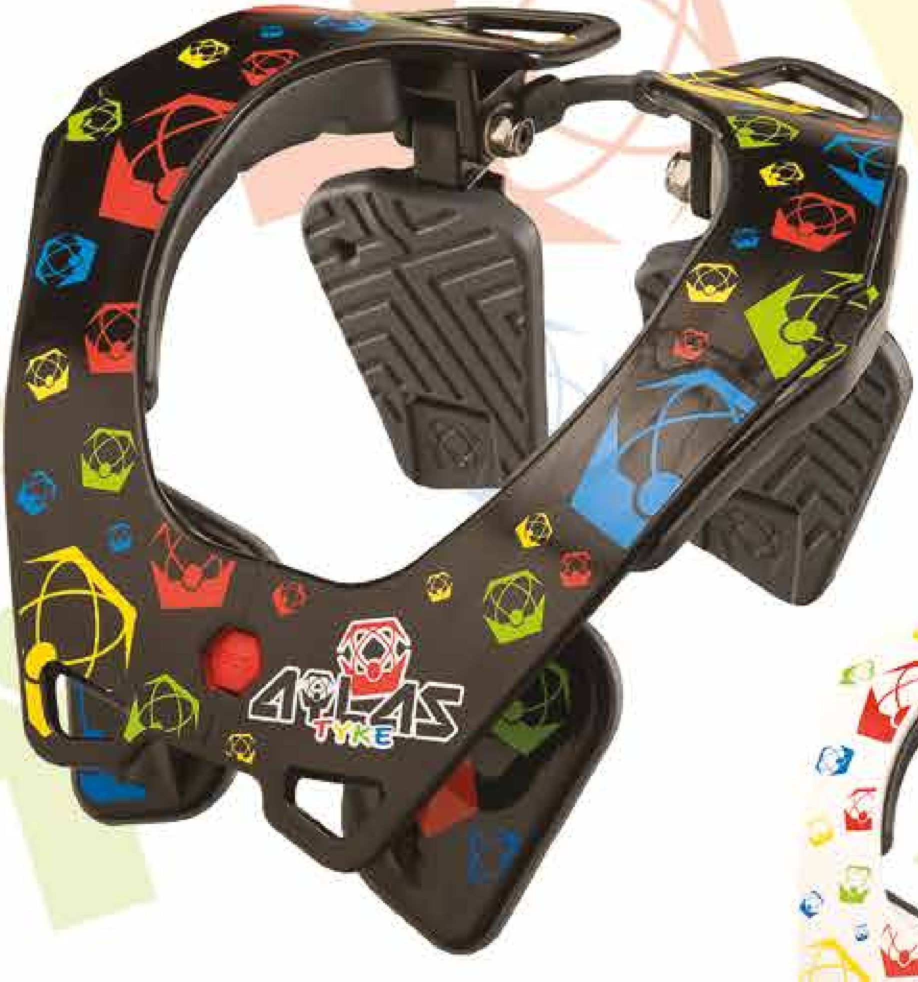

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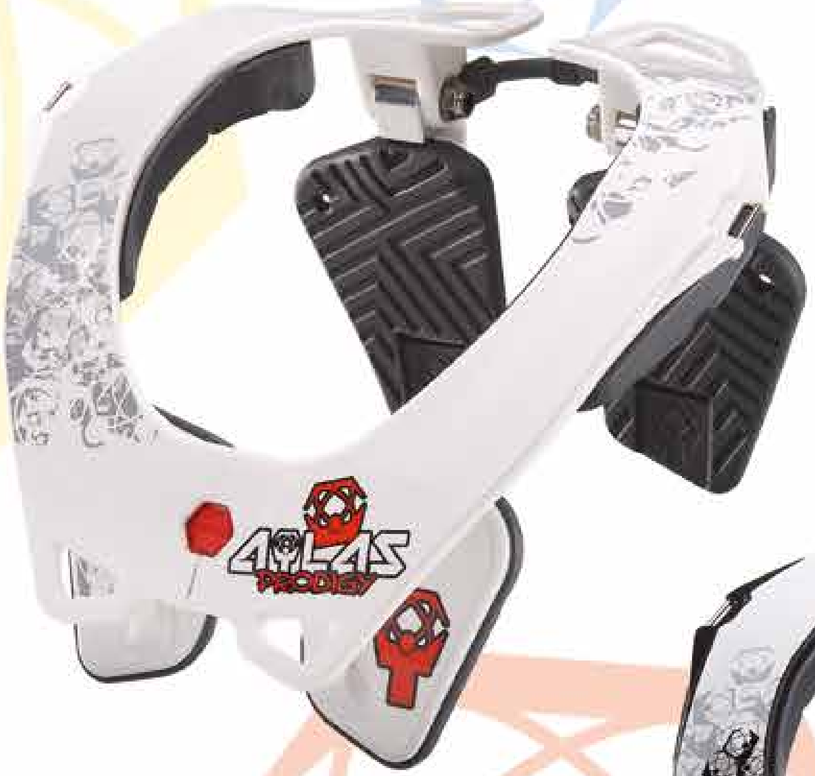
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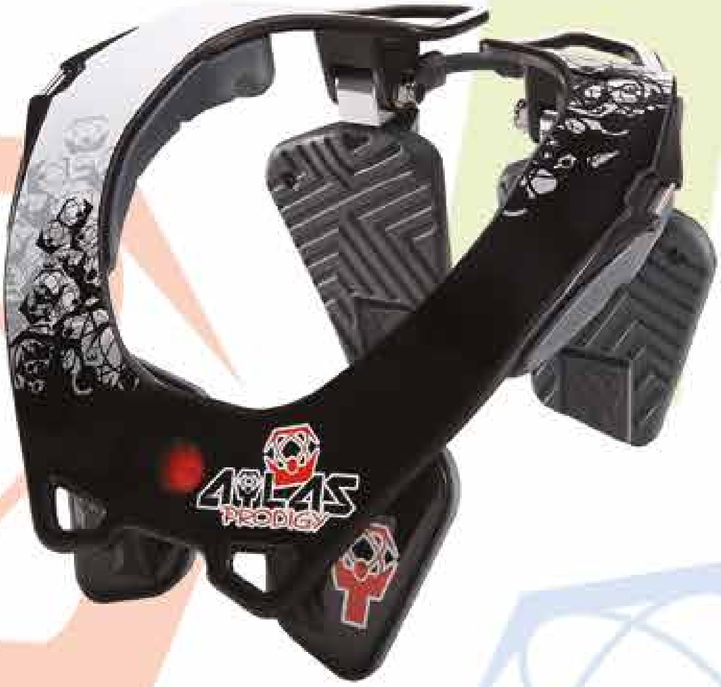
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ARNAUD TONUS

A DREAM COME TRUE

STORY GEOFF MEYER IMAGES KAWASAKI

Monster Energy CLS Kawasaki rider Arnaud Tonus made a big jump in his performances in 2014, due to a lack of injuries that had hampered his career in the past couple of seasons. Now fully fit and at times fighting with Jeffrey Herlings for moto wins the Swiss rider has decided to make the move to America to race the AMA Supercross and Motocross Championship.

There is no doubt the European riders are a major focal point for America teams with former World Champion Ken Roczen presently leading the 450 Championship and 2006 World MX2 Champion Christophe Pourcel putting in good results in the 250 class.

The FIM World Motocross Championship is now the place the best riders in the World race and no doubt the America teams can see that and are looking at riders like Tonus to help build the AMA Championships.

America a lucky, Tonus is the total professional and great with the media and his fans. Much like his good friend Ken Roczen the rider from Switzerland will be a popular character in USA.

We sat down and talked to Tonus about his move to USA and his desire to make a boyhood dream come true.

Motocross Illustrated: Arnaud, wow, going to America, that is going to be a big change for you. What makes you so interested in America?

Tonus: I think I have been interested since I was born, you know when you are a child and you love the sport you look to America and it's pretty natural for me. I love Supercross and I have raced Supercross since I was a boy. It's kind of a dream and for sure when it came to reality and it took me a long time to decide, but I am happy I did it and I have a lot of things to face and I know it. I will go there motivated and work hard.

Armaud
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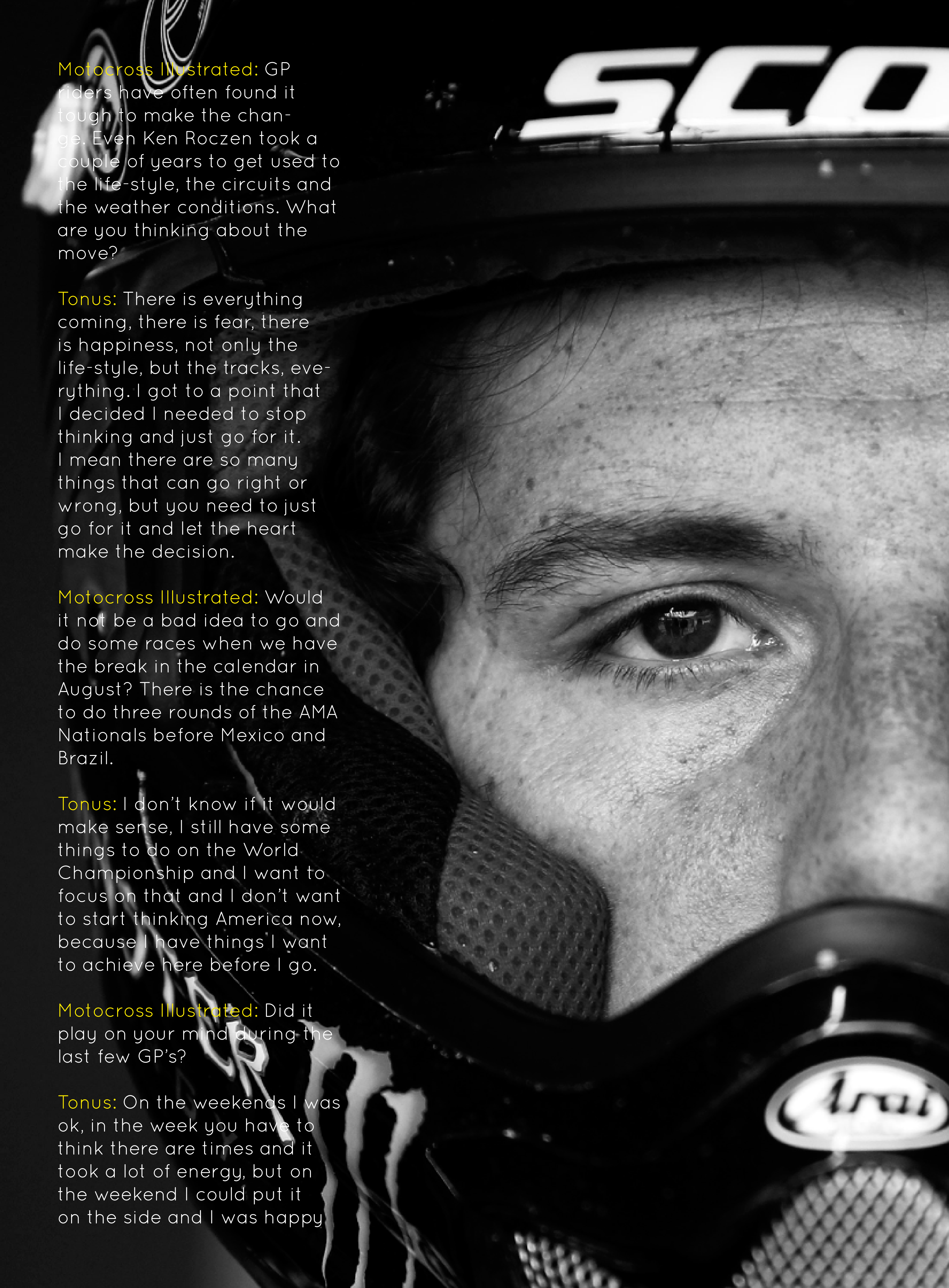

Motocross Illustrated: GP riders have often found it tough to make the change. Even Ken Roczen took a couple of years to get used to the life-style, the circuits and the weather conditions. What are you thinking about the move?

Tonus: There is everything coming, there is fear, there is happiness, not only the life-style, but the tracks, everything. I got to a point that I decided I needed to stop thinking and just go for it. I mean there are so many things that can go right or wrong, but you need to just go for it and let the heart make the decision.

Motocross Illustrated: Would it not be a bad idea to go and do some races when we have the break in the calendar in August? There is the chance to do three rounds of the AMA Nationals before Mexico and Brazil.

Tonus: I don't know if it would make sense, I still have some things to do on the World Championship and I want to focus on that and I don't want to start thinking America now, because I have things I want to achieve here before I go.

Motocross Illustrated: Did it play on your mind during the last few GP's?

Tonus: On the weekends I was ok, in the week you have to think there are times and it took a lot of energy, but on the weekend I could put it on the side and I was happy

about that.

Motocross Illustrated: You had the same speed as Jeffrey early in the year, but he has gotten away from you now. I guess the goal is to catch him again or not?

Tonus: For sure, that is the goal to get Jeffrey. I try to get better on small points, but that is the difference. I think we are riding on the edge and I need to fix some small things to get that little bit extra to ride with him.

Motocross Illustrated: Looking at you on the bike you look better than ever, sometimes you look even better than Jeffrey does on the bike, and we all know he looks great.

Tonus: For sure I feel more comfortable. I think the training is paying off, and I had a lot of time on the bike and I didn't have that with all the injuries before. Mentally I feel better and am more confident.

Motocross Illustrated We have Germany coming up then some sand circuits in Sweden and Finland. Are you looking forward to these races?

Tonus: I am happy to race everywhere and I take it weekend by weekend and if I want to be on top of things I need to stay on the moment and not look forward.

ENERGY
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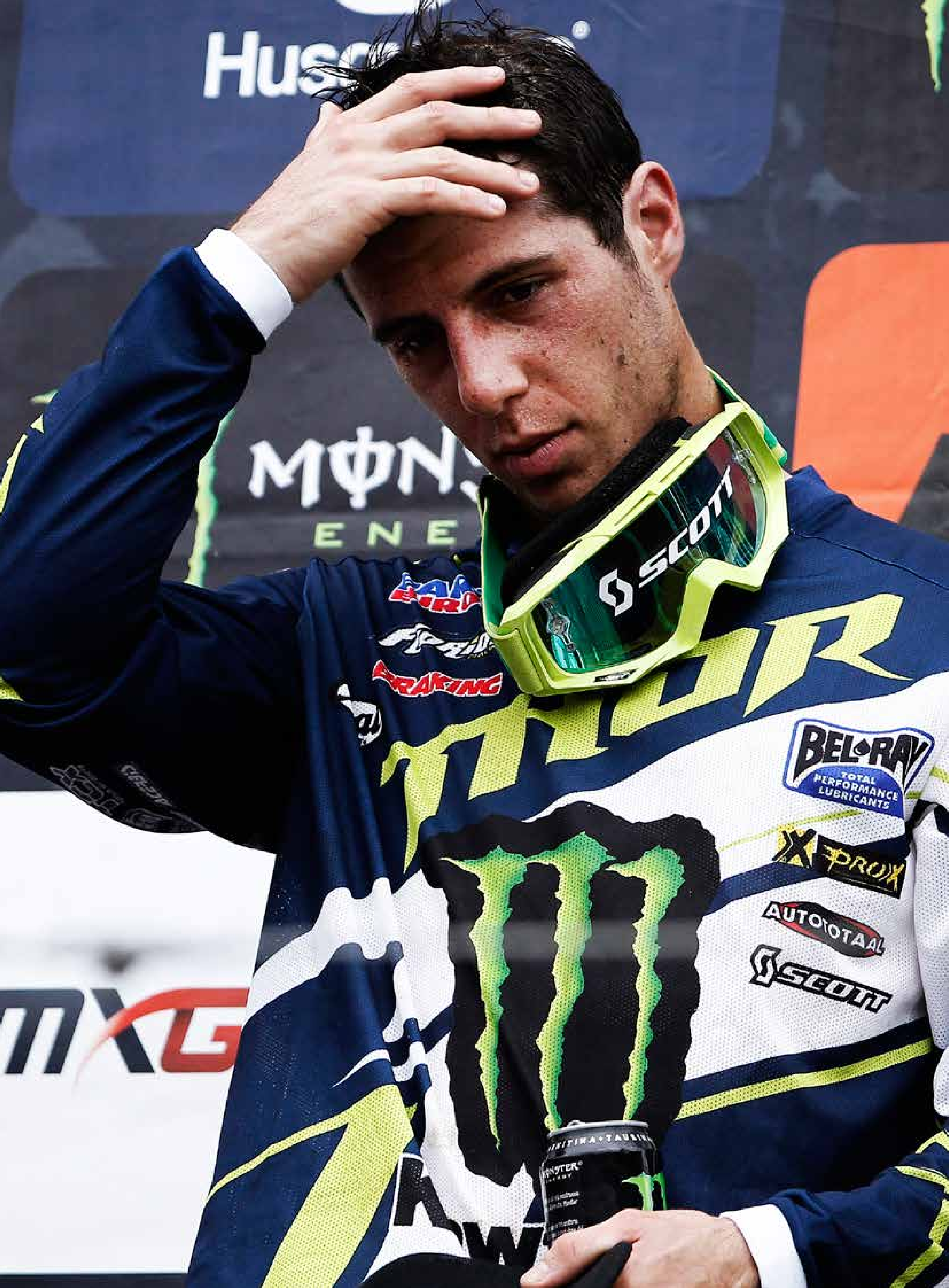

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LUCAS OILS AMA NATIONALS

STORY GEOFF MEYER IMAGES SIMON CUDBEY AND SUZUKI

Three men stand in line to win the 2014 AMA 450cc Championships, after just four rounds that is pretty obvious. Kenny Roczen, Ryan Dungey and James Stewart look likely to battle out the next rounds to work out who is the fastest Motocross rider in the National series. The man leading the series after four rounds is former World MX2 Champion and Motocross of Nations hero Ken Roczen from Germany.

THREE MEN ONE TITLE

The Red Bull KTM Factory rider has been mister consistent being on the podium in all four rounds and winning two of them.

Unlucky not to win round one in Glen Helen the likeable kid felt awesome in rounds two and three.

It felt great winning in both Hangtown and Thunder Valley. It’s always awesome to lead the races after two solid motos and I did that in those two rounds. It just makes the week a lot easier. Man, it was good both weekends. I always like going to Thunder Valley, and it looks like they brought in some softer dirt. I really had a lot of fun out there and plus it was good racing. I’m pretty happy with my starts, and overall I don’t have anything to complain about this weekend. For Roczen his success in round two at Hangtown made up for what was a disappointing 2-2 result in round one in Glen Helen.

Red Bull
7
AMA PRO RACING
YOSHIMURA
SUZUKI
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LUCAS OIL
DUNLOP

"I think it was just getting the first round of the series done. I'm usually not a big fan of Glen Helen. I've always done pretty good at Hangtown, so I really like that place here. I have good memories in Colorado, so I was really looking forward to that one. Good memories from the Motocross of Nations there also and it worked out ok with another podium finish."

As for round four winner James Stewart, it's about improvement and a lot of testing saw him come in much stronger in

"High Point went great. I've got to give a shout-out to the Yoshimura Suzuki team. We've been working hard and the Yoshimura Suzuki RM-Z450 was awesome today."

In both 450 motos, Stewart got excellent launches off the gate, overtaking the lead on the second lap in moto one and on the first lap in moto two and went on to pull a gap and lead all remaining laps in both motos. As a result, the Yoshimura Suzuki rider won both races and, ultimately, the overall victory for the day.

"In the first moto I got a good start on the Yoshimura Suzuki RM-Z450 and was able to pull a good lead. I think at one point, I was out by like 13 seconds and I just kind-of cruised in to the finish. It was awesome to get a win on a track where I've struggled a bit. The second moto was basically a carbon-copy of the first. I was able to go one-one today. "It's definitely

COMMISSION

special to have started out how we did at Glen Helen, with a solid sixth place and over a minute behind, and then to finally win a moto last weekend and then to go one-one this week – it was great. I'm looking forward to having a week off and then coming back for the Tennessee National."

So onto Tennessee in a weeks time and lets hope the battle between these three men works out. It's Dungey's turn to take a win, and if he doesn't then it might just start coming down to the Roczen versus Stewart battle. Young versus old, novice versus experience, smooth versus reckless. Either way the AMA Nationals are looking exciting in the 450cc class.

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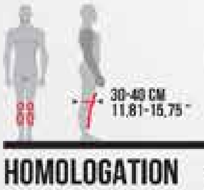
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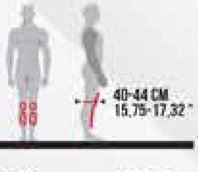
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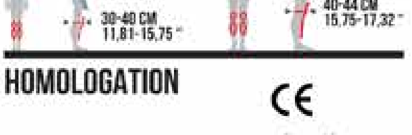

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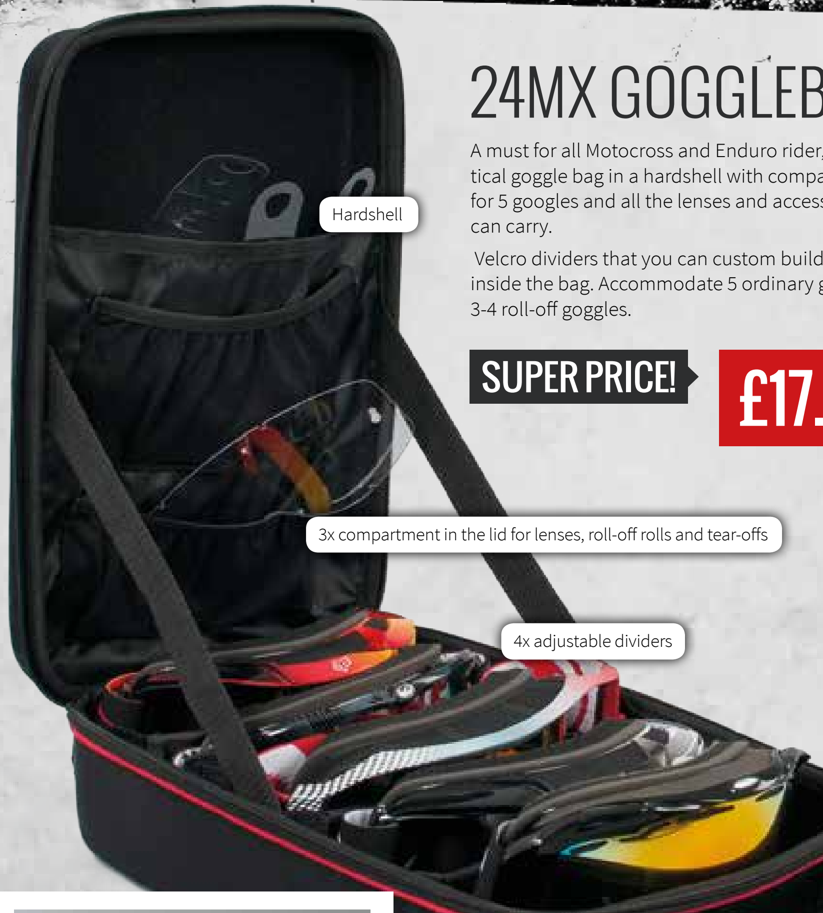
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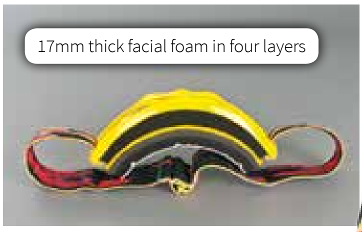
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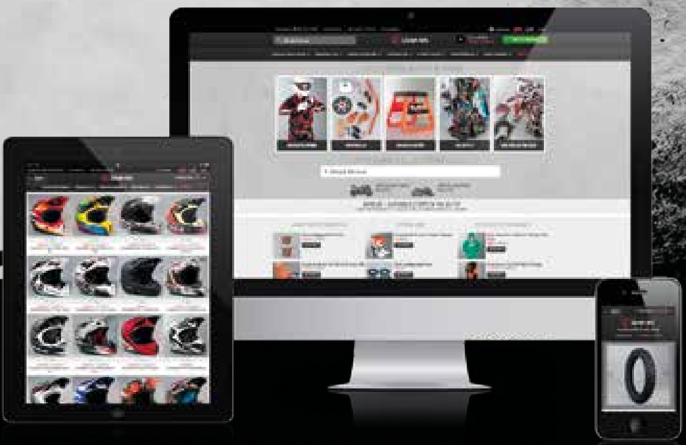

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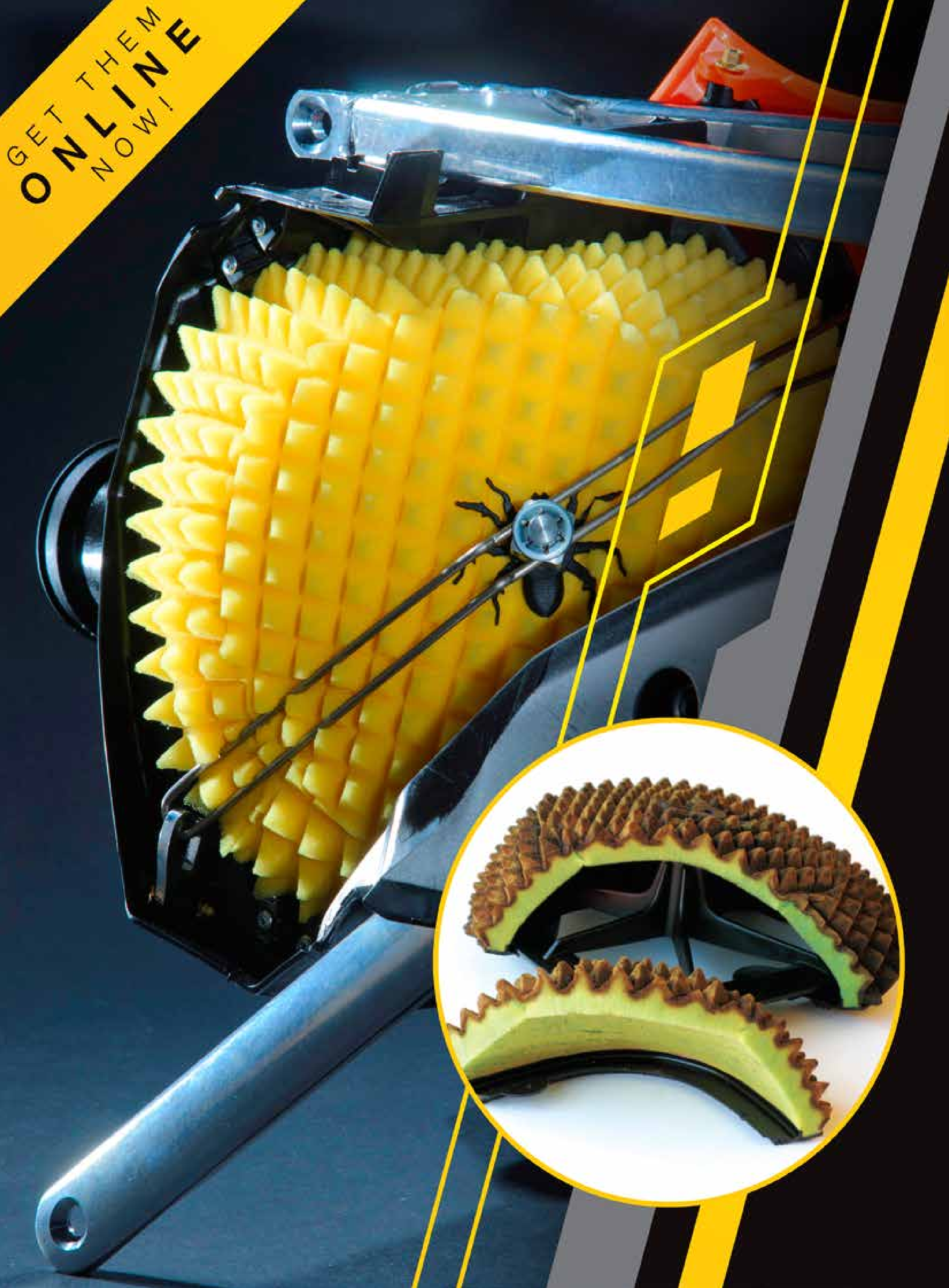
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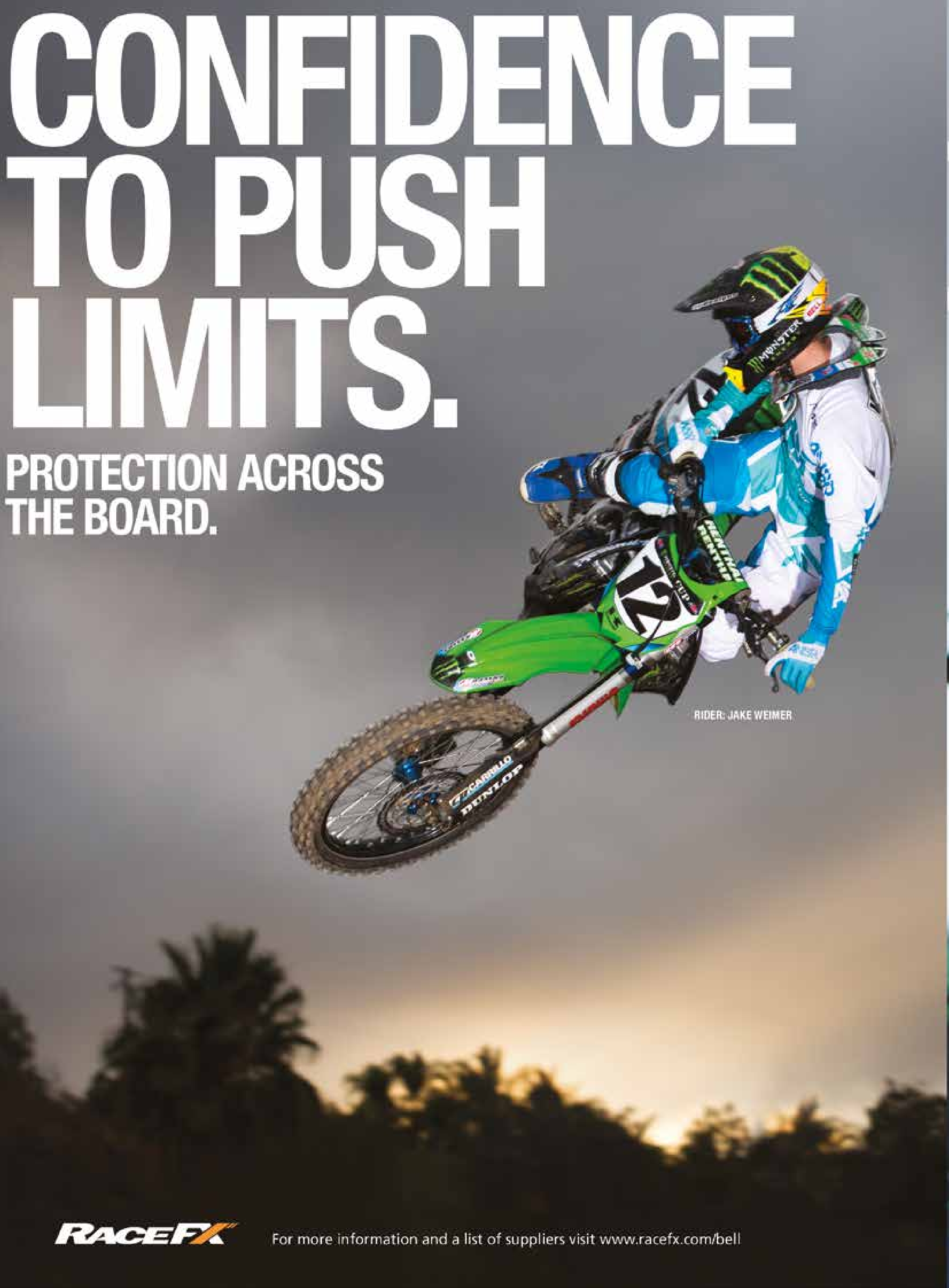
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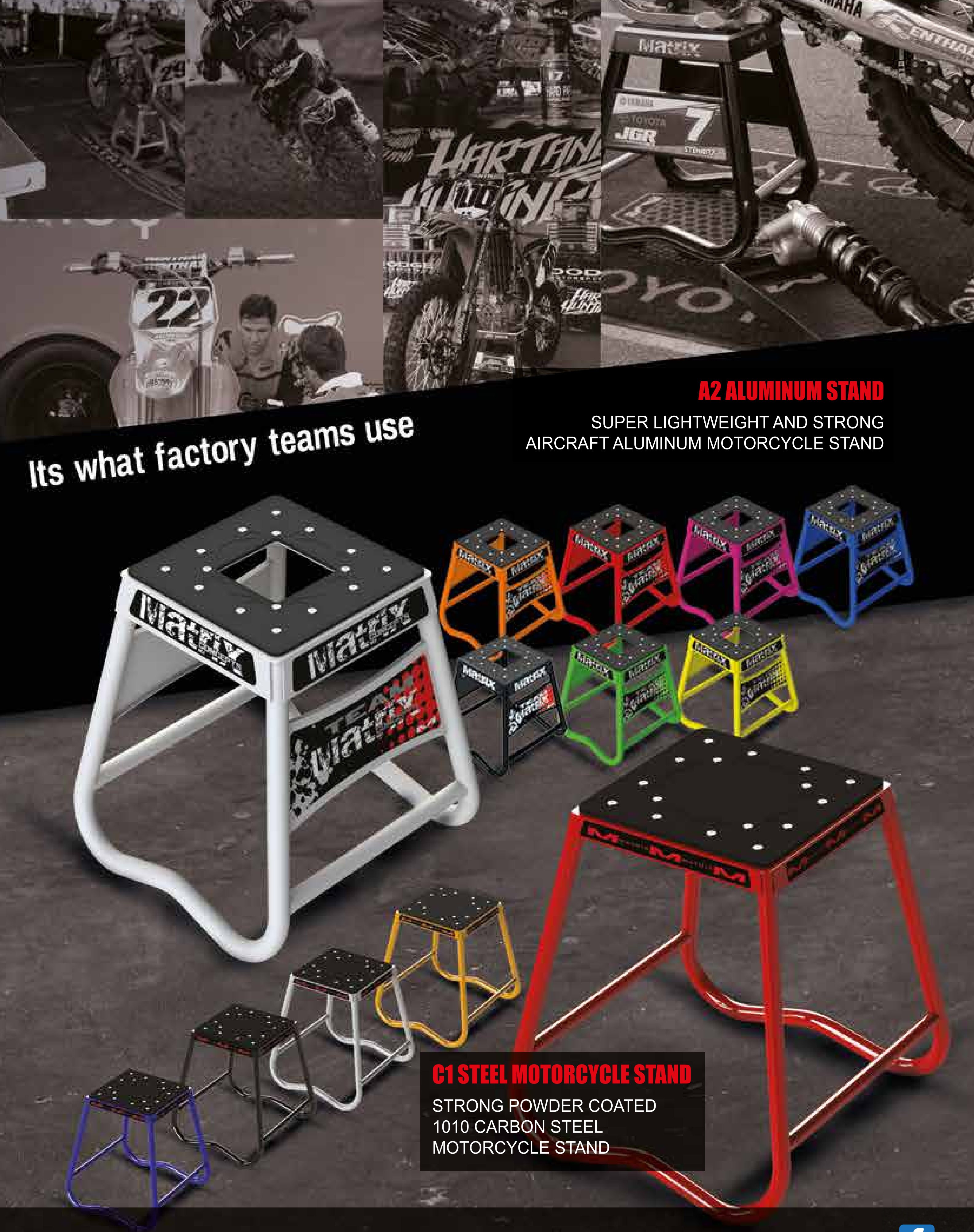

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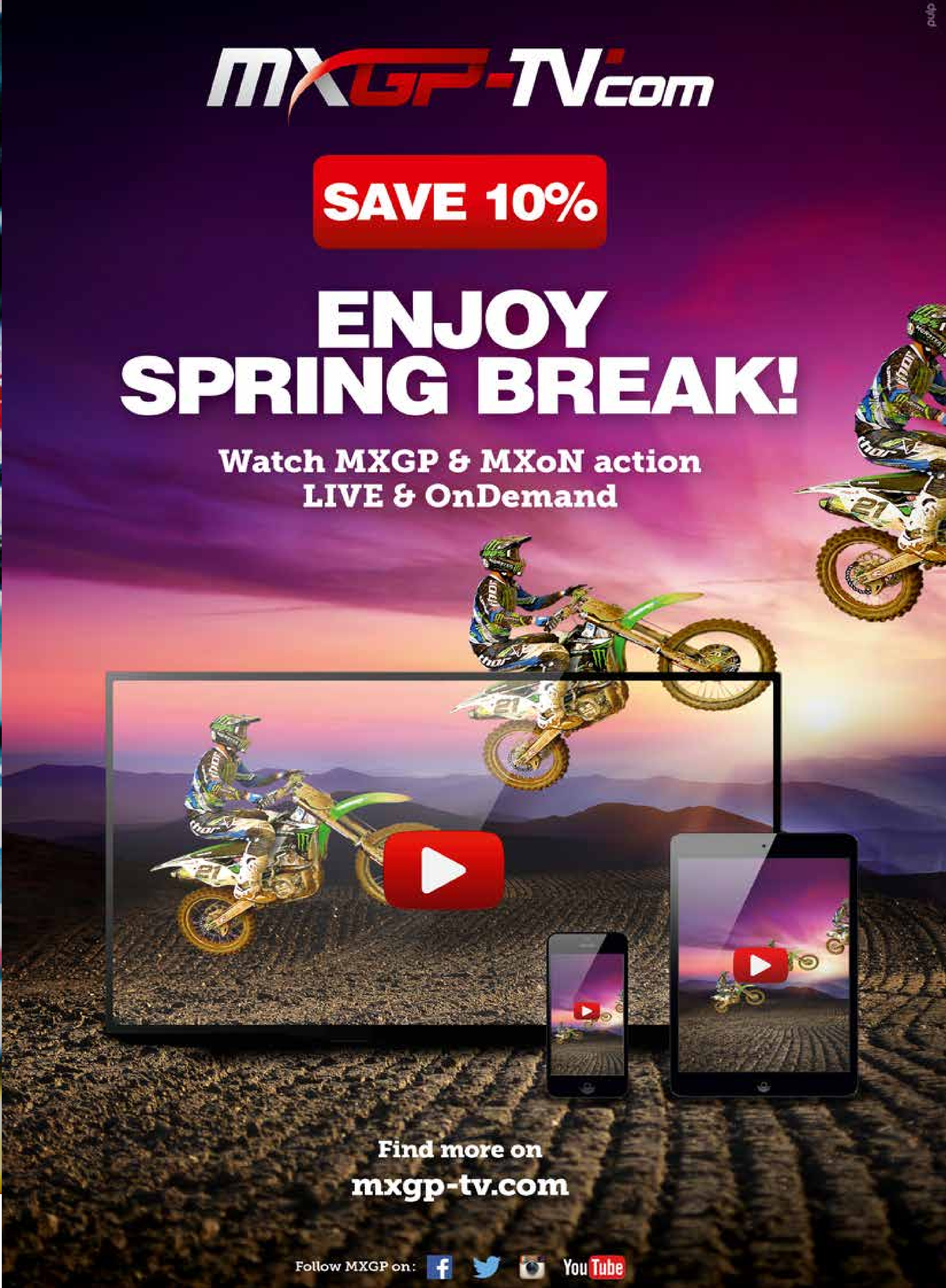
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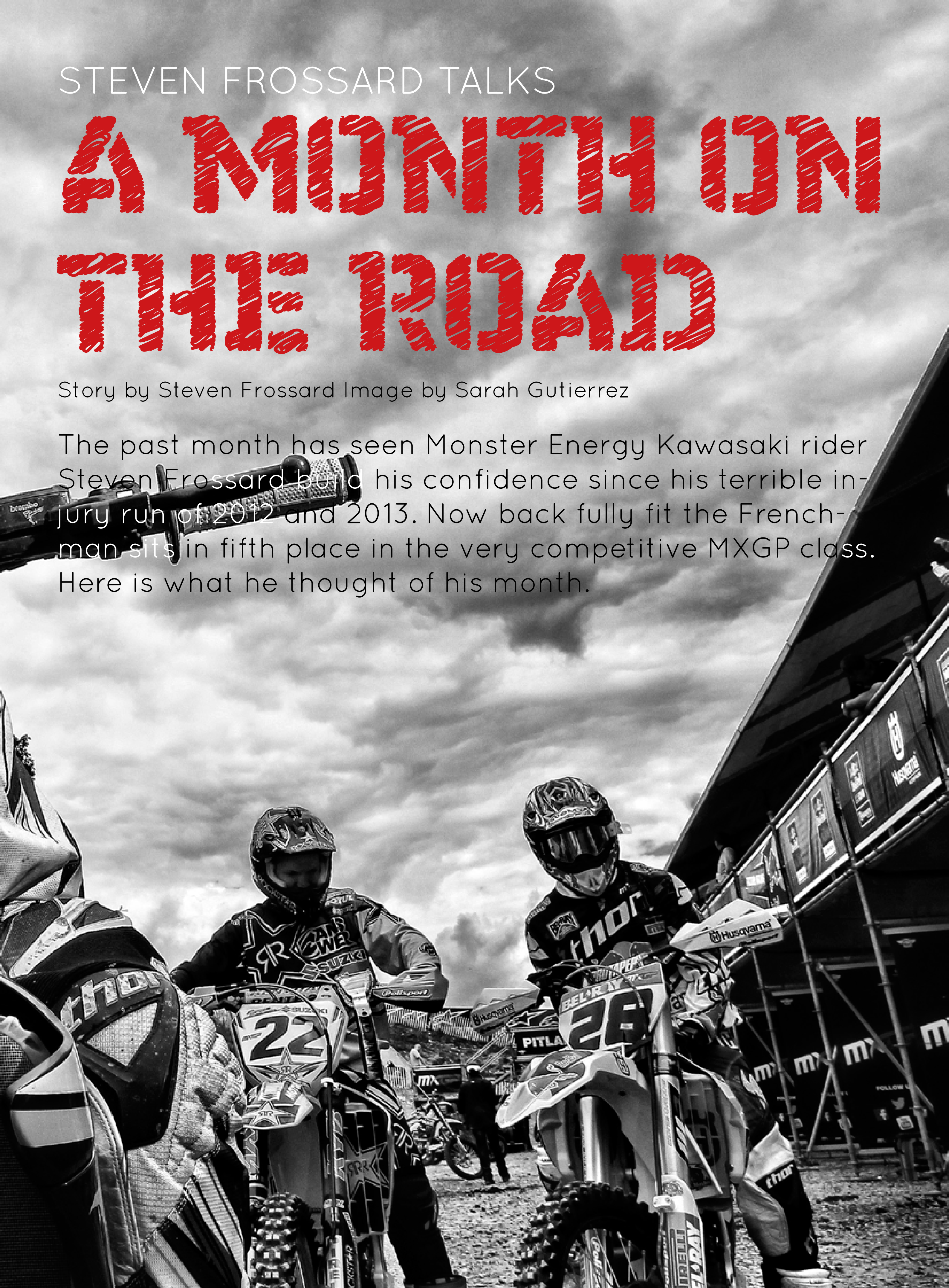
STEVEN FROSSARD TALKS

A MONTH ON THE ROAD

Story by Steven Frossard Image by Sarah Gutierrez

The past month has seen Monster Energy Kawasaki rider Steven Frossard build his confidence since his terrible injury run of 2012 and 2013. Now back fully fit the Frenchman sits in fifth place in the very competitive MXGP class. Here is what he thought of his month.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Grand Prix of Spain, Talavera

“It was very tough today as it was very hot, and on this track it was not easy to pass. My start was not so good in the first race but I came back to third and did the fastest lap at the end of the race; my physical condition was good. In the second race I had a better start but I made a mistake at mid-race and then I got arm pump with Cairoli just behind me. I’m happy with the overall result; I just missed the podium by two points but the most important is that I again have a good feeling on the bike just a few weeks after the bad crash in Italy.”

Grand Prix of England, Matterley Basin

“I had a pretty good qualifying race, and today I got two good starts. In the first moto I was third but passed Desalle quickly to secure the second position behind Cairoli. I had a good rhythm and was never far from him, but I made a small mistake four laps before the end and got arm pump. I was happy with this second position and was expecting another good race in the second race; in the first corner I was in the top three side by side with Desalle when we touched and I crashed. The rear brake was damaged so it was impossible to continue and I’m frustrated as a podium result was possible here as I like this track so much.”

Grand Prix of France, St Jean d’Angely

“In the first race my start was pretty good and I was in the top five, but I stalled the engine and that put me down to twentieth at the end of the

SCORPION
183
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first lap; it's pretty difficult to pass on this track and I spent some energy to come back to sixth. My second start was also good and there were four of us at the front, but I didn't have enough energy left after that tough first race to pass Van Horebeek and Desalle. I feel better and better; I have the speed and, as we could see today, physically I have a good condition. Now I just need to get a podium. The atmosphere was incredible here for the French GP; when we are at the start we feel the crowd behind us."

Grand Prix of Italy, Maggiora

"I had a good qualifying race on Saturday, even if I made a small mistake while I was leading to finish in third position. I had a very good feeling with the bike and was confident for the races; that's great as I feel better and better each weekend. I'm convinced that I have the same speed as the top guys in this class, but I'm just missing consistency as once more I finished only one moto. In the first race today I was leading and then second, but with five minutes to go I had stomach cramps and couldn't defend my position so Van Horebeek passed me. Between both motos I didn't feel well but wanted to race so I started the second race but after five laps I again had pain in my stomach and it was impossible to continue."

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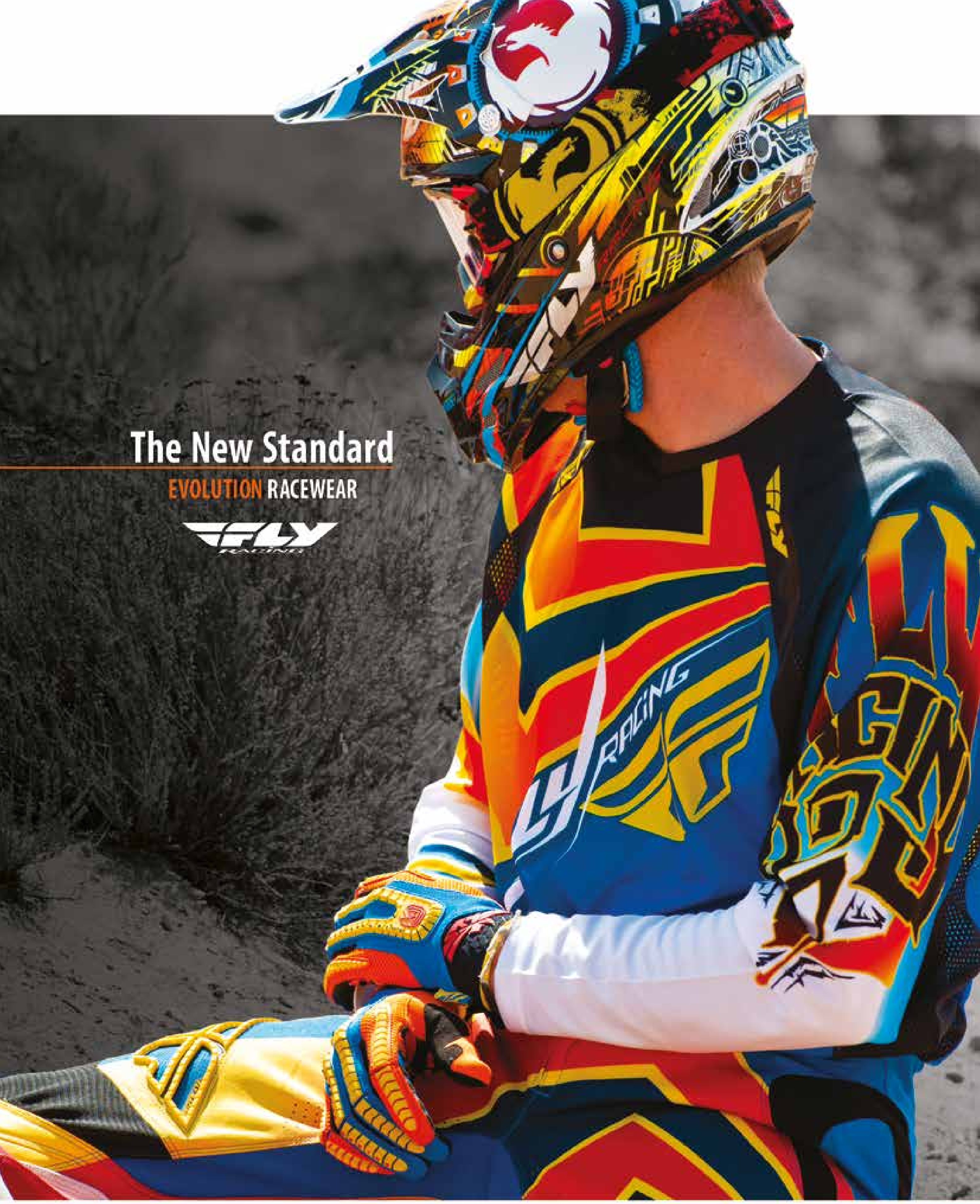
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Antti Pyrhonen interview

THE START AND FUTURE OF HUSKY

STORY GEOFF MEYER IMAGES HUSKY

Antti Pyrhonen the Red Bull Ice One Husqvarna Factory Racing team manager knows a little about racing and the Grand Prix scene. It wasn't that long ago that Pyrhonen raced the World Championships and put his body on the line for as much success as he could get. Now a team manager he is learning fast and becoming something of an expert in the field of team management.

We caught up with Pyrhonen and asked him about 2014 and the future of the Red Bull Ice One Husqvarna Factory team.

Motocross Illustrated: Antti. It's been a wild season with a lot of injuries hasn't it?

Pyrhonen: It has been an up and down season, everything went well the testing and the preparation and the riders were happy with the bikes, so we expected a good season. Regarding Todd it was his rookie season and he started out really well, holding down seventh place in the series points. But then he had that terrible crash and he got a bad injury. As for Tyla he had an unlucky start to the season and he missed the first three round and when everyone else was in top shape he has to start all over again. In Italy he did well, he used that as a training, then he was 6th in Bulgaria, 6th in Holland, then we went to Spain and he was really good in England and scored 4th place. He was unlucky in France where he had a nasty crash, but luckily it was just a concussion and he rested for a few days and he looked good for Italy, we expect another top five, but then he got injured again, so that is unfortunate.

Motocross Illustrated: What are the future plans for the team? I can imagine the dream is to have the best of the best in both the Husky team and the KTM team or not?

Pyrhonen: At the moment our goal is to step it up each year. We need to be realistic and it's our first year as the Factory unite, but many the top riders are looking at possibly riding for us. We are looking at the top riders for this team. Regarding the future, I don't have any news on that, but I think in the coming three weeks we will know which riders we end up with.

Motocross Illustrated: Is it possibly you keep Todd and Tyla?

Pyrhonen: It is possible we keep Tyla and Todd. I mean Todd it was his rookie season and in my opinion he deserves another chance and Tyla was getting on the pace before his injury in Italy. Our class is MXGP, this is our class we focus on, if we take three riders that is something we need to look at, but at the moment we need to wait a few weeks before me have a final decision on 2015.

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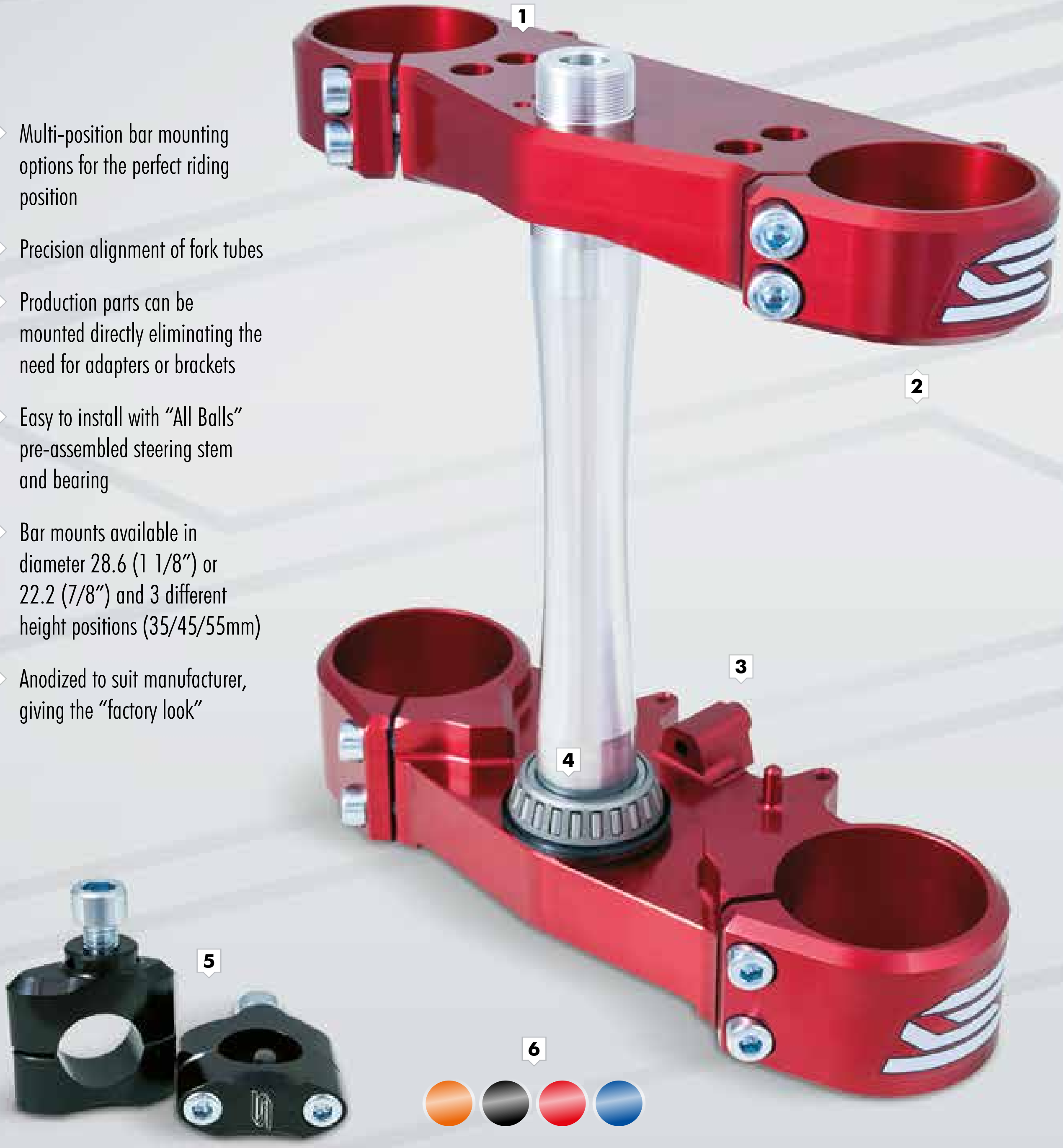

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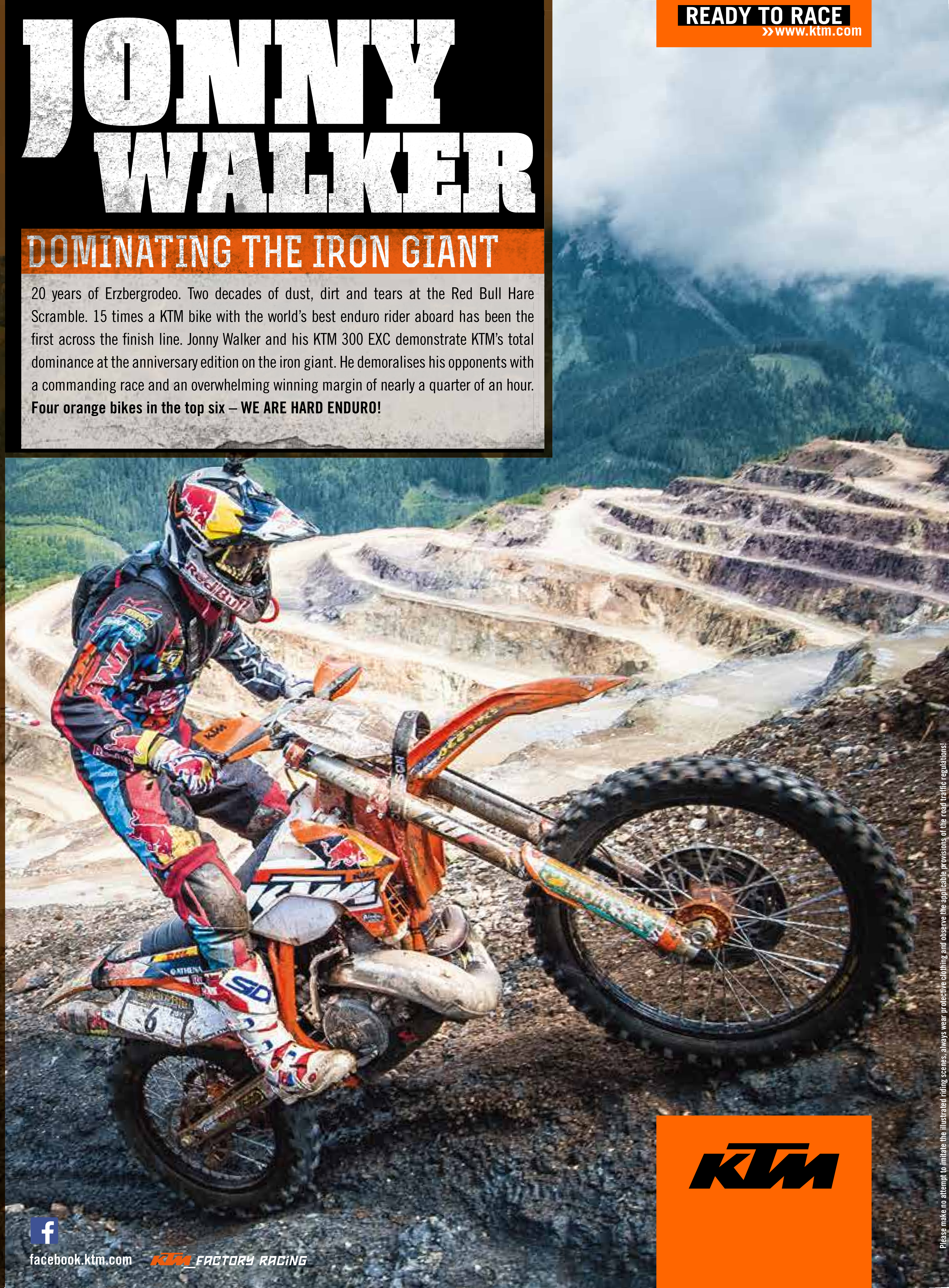

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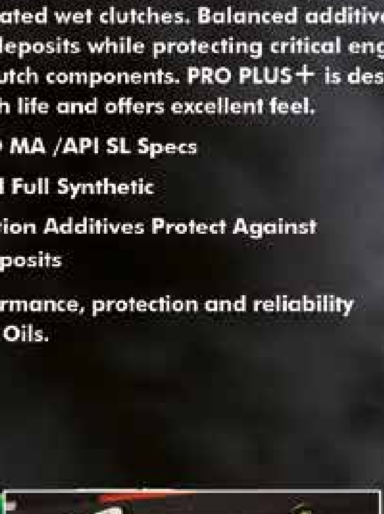

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